

Stroud, on the 4th instant, tenders were received in answer to advertisement, for various works under Mr. F. Niblett, architect, and the two tenders amounting together to the sum of £424, as delivered in by Messrs. Wall and Hook, of Redborough, Stroud, were accepted.

	For the alterations and additions to the Town Hall.	For rebuilding Church-yard Wall.
Spire	£245 0 0	£25 0 0
Blackwell	318 16 8	121 0 0
Burymen	334 0 0	166 0 0
Jeans	359 1 10	75 1 6
Wall, (accepted)	339 0 0	85 0 0
Niblett	275 0 0	70 0 0
Cowley	287 0 0	26 0 0

FLAT TILED ROOFS.

Your correspondent, "A Working Brick-layer," in the number for 29th ult. seeks information upon flat tiled roofs, and enquires whether these alluded to in my communication in your 3rd vol. page 371, have answered in point of economy and durability. I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the highly satisfactory result of what was then looked upon as somewhat experimental; and would add two or three suggestions for the assistance of those who are desirous of adopting the like improvements.

The cost was found to be about one-third less than a timber and slated roof, the houses being full-sized third rates, covering nearly six squares; and there has neither been since, nor is there likely to be for many years to come, any cost for repairs. There can be no probability of defect, if the following particulars be observed:—

That the foundations to the external and party walls be good, to prevent irregular settlements.

That the wrought iron joists be stiff, and strutted with smaller iron, to prevent the roof shaking when walked upon, and be bedded upon an iron wall plate, or upon stone corbels, and painted well before fixing.

That the three courses of tiles be laid in fresh cement, next, by a competent bricklayer, and that the upper (if not the two under courses), both for durability and fitness, be laid with Peake's terra-metallic tiles, closely jointed.

That ventilation space be provided between the ceiling joists of the bed-rooms and the roof, to neutralise the effect of the heat and cold of the weather. Over staircases, &c. it is merely needful to render the undersides of the tiling with cement, or gauged stuff.

That a good fall be given to the roof (say about 1 in 12), and a skirting be formed with one course of tiles all round same, with a shoot formed to carry off the water into the iron rain-water-pipe head, the back of which should be cut to receive it. The trap-door should simply rest upon a raised stone curb worked into the tiling.

Lastly, that the work be executed in the summer season, to avoid risk of frost.

The very great advantages in point of economy, convenience, and durability of these fire-proof roofs, are manifest from the reduced cost in the outlay, the non-liability to repairs, the non-exposure to robberies of lead gutters, &c., the facilities for views, and their suitability oftentimes to architectural effect, when the sight of the roof is objectionable. C.

PROPOSED EXHIBITION OF MODERN FOREIGN ART.—A large exhibition of pictures, by many of the great painters of the various European schools of art will be shortly opened to the public. The great industrial exhibition not including works of painting, the present enterprise is intended to fill this vacancy, and for that purpose the mansion in St. James's-square, called Litchfield-house, has been taken, and is now being fitted up. The principal living artists of the French, German, Dutch, Belgian, Italian, and Spanish schools, have engaged, we are told, to send their works, and the leading English painters will be invited to contribute to this gathering of pictorial art.

BELL TURRET AT ACTON TURVILLE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.



The church of Acton Turville consists only of a nave, 32 feet by 19 feet 6 inches, chancel 16 feet by 16, and south porch. It seems to have been built in the early part of the thirteenth century. The north and south doorways of the nave are square headed, under a semi-circular arch, enriched with four-leaved flowers. There are one or two Early English windows in the chancel; but the greater part are insertions of later date. The chancel arch is doubly recessed with hollow chamfers, and supports the bell turret, which is massive and of a picturesque outline: the addition of pinnacles on the cardinal sides serves to strengthen as well as enrich it; and the small shafts attached to the piers, supported by moulded corbels, and blossoming as it were into a capital of foliage, adds greatly to the effect, and renders it on the whole an example worthy of attention, and, in my opinion, second only to that at Leigh-de-la-Mere. The turret, as well as the church, is in a very bad state of repair, and unless something is done this valuable specimen of a class of bell turrets by no means common, will have suffered from that neglect which I am sorry to say is too evident in these parts; for within the last ten or twenty years two churches in the neighbourhood have been almost utterly destroyed. I allude to the interesting old church of Leigh-de-la-Mere, and the picturesque church of St. Peter, at Bidestone. E. W. G.

ARCHITECTS' DETAILS.—I observe you sometimes term parties estimating "blind builders;" this should occasionally be taken to mean builders groping their way in the dark, or, which is much the same thing, making out tenders without *detailed drawings*. The following is an instance:—Some fine coloured plans, from which to make out estimates for rebuilding a church at Cokermouth, were lately sent down from London without a single detail drawing for the masons' work: the parties estimating were of course left to their own imagination to guess the sort of moulding both inside and outside, and the tenders, as might be expected, differed materially, the highest being 5,900*l.*, and the lowest 4,200*l.* Now, Mr. Editor, if you call your London builders blind, some of your architects are certainly leaders of the blind.—A COUNTRY BUILDER.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

The inhabitants of this neighbourhood feel they have great cause of complaint at the extraordinary manner in which their interests are considered. A short time since, in answer to an inquiry in the House of Commons, Lord Seymour said he was about to issue a Commission to consider the proper site. In answer to a further inquiry the Chancellor of the Exchequer was understood to say (for by the reporters it does not appear very certain what he really did say) that a Commission had been appointed; but at the present time there had been no result. Now, surely we have a right to be informed who are to be the judges in this (to me) very important point, and also, we might, without too great condescension on the part of Government, be informed what are the points (if any beyond the site) submitted to the commissioners. It must not be lost sight of that committees, year after year, have been sitting and reporting, collecting evidence from the most experienced and talented; what further there is to learn upon the subject we are at a loss to know. Your journal has more than once been the means of suggesting sites and approaches. It is sufficiently disgraceful for us to be compelled to show our foreign visitors our most justly envied highway rendered nearly impassable from the stoppage of three of the principal arches; but to proclaim we are too poor to build a bridge, whilst the people, independent of the Government, are putting forth their giant strength to keep up their name and character, is almost past belief, and can only show that the Government, and not the people, are to blame. The injury that is occurring to this neighbourhood is very great: no one's tenure is secure. We look, therefore, to you for help, and trust by your exertion something will be done this session.

THE INHABITANTS OF BRIDGE-STREET, WESTMINSTER.

PROPOSED FUND FOR THE LATE EDITOR OF THE "LITERARY GAZETTE."

All must lament the statements which have recently appeared in the London papers as to the position of the late editor of the *Literary Gazette*, Mr. Jerdan, now in the decline of life. After nearly forty years' devotion to the *Literary Gazette*, and after disseminating through its columns so much sound criticism, judicious commentary, courteous advice, and cheering counsel, to youthful aspirants in literature, art, and science, it cannot fail to excite the regret and sympathy of all real lovers of literature, that such a writer should be reduced to comparative poverty, at a time when he ought to be enjoying the rewards of his long and arduous exertions.

At its first appearance the *Literary Gazette* was a novelty; and the kindly tone of its criticisms, the tact with which the matter was selected, and the ability displayed in its diversified contents, attracted much attention. The daily press was then almost entirely engrossed by politics and party feeling. Its matter was small in quantity, and neither potent nor much varied in quality. The drama and the fine arts were occasionally noticed, but rarely with sound and impartial judgment, or with that nice discrimination which has since distinguished the London press.

The *Examiner* may be referred to as having taught the reading public to require an improved system of criticism, in politics, in literature, and in art; but the writers in that journal were young, and devoid of that coolness of temper and judgment which secures the confidence of the discreet and cautious reader.

At such a time Mr. Jerdan started the *Literary Gazette*, and introduced into its pages so much amusing and well written matter, on current literature, science, the arts, and the drama, and their respective professors, that the public warmly hailed and promptly encouraged the work. The first volume was published in the year 1817, and from that time to the end of 1850, the same editor has continued to fill his weekly sheet with a succession of essays from his own pen, and those of able coadjutors, which have gratified and interested